OTTAWA metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Ferris the loon rescued

Locals tie together two canoes, set out on frozen lake to save stranded bird

PAGE 4

Meet me on Alfie St.

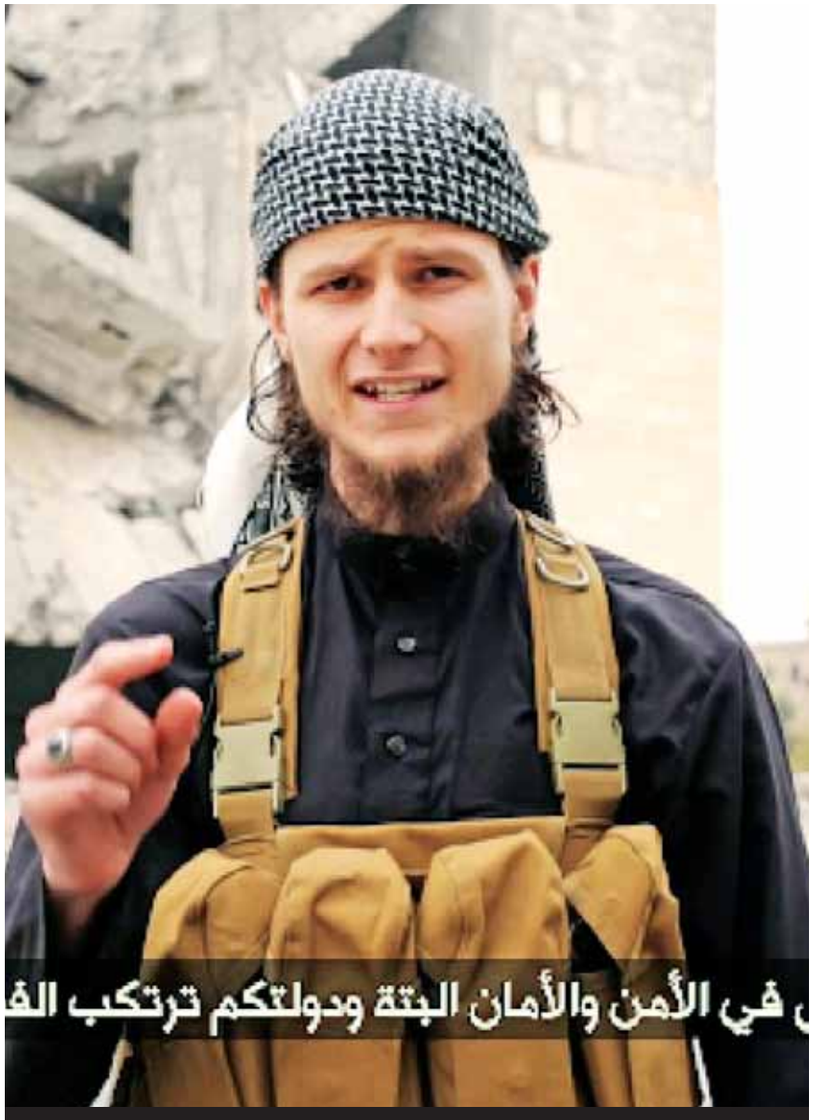
Petition circulating online to name Palladium Drive after Daniel Alfredsson

PAGE 12

WYNNE QUESTIONS NEW PROSTITUTION LAWS

PREMIER HAS 'GRAVE CONCERN' NEW SEX LAWS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, CALLS FOR REVIEW

PAGE 6



An ISIL fighter, believed to be an Ottawa man named John Maguire, warns Canada of more attacks and says the killings of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent were in response to Canada's role in Iraq. SCREENGRAB

'Where it hurts you the most'

Video. Man believed to be Ottawan who left to fight with ISIL warns of more attacks on Canada

TREVOR GREENWAY
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He grew up like most Canadians: playing hockey, guitar and attending university, but a Muslim convert who left Ottawa last year to fight with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is now warning his former fellow countrymen of more attacks from the extremist group.

A video posted on Twitter and jihadist websites shows a man, identified as Abu Anwar al-Canadi, warning Canada that more attacks are coming "where it hurts you the most." The man says recent attacks on Parliament, which killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and the hit-and-run in Quebec that killed Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, were in "direct response" to Canada joining the fight against ISIL.

"The more bombs you drop on our people, the more Muslims will realize and understand that today, waging jihad against the West and its allies around the world is beyond a shadow of the doubt a religious obligation binding upon every Muslim," he said.

Canada's minister of public safety and emergency preparedness, Steven Blaney, issued a statement Sunday, saying terrorism remains a real and serious threat and calling on Canadians to remain vigilant.

"That is why we are taking part in the coalition that is currently conducting airstrikes against ISIL, and supporting the security forces in Iraq in their fight against this terrorist scourge. It is also the reason that we are working very determinedly to strengthen the tools available to the police and intelligence community to better protect us," the statement said.

A former classmate who saw the video told Metro she recognized the man as John Maguire. Maguire is a former University of Ottawa student who vanished last year after converting to Islam and becoming radicalized.

Maguire, 23, hails from Kemptville, Ont., and is believed to be among dozens of Canadians fighting with extremist groups in Syria and Iraq. In the six-minute video, Maguire calls on fellow Muslims in Canada to rise up against the "relentlessly oppressing" society.

"How can you remain living amongst the disbelievers under their unjust, man-made laws which are slowly but surely eliminating the rights of the Muslims, especially now that the caliphate has been established?" he asked in the video.

"How can you stand to live amongst them peacefully when their leaders, who represent the masses, are waging a crusade against your Muslim brothers and sisters at this very moment?"

In the video, Maguire also urges Canadians to convert to Islam like he did and paints a picture of a very typical Canadian who grew up around the hockey rink and is answering the "true call of the prophets and messengers of God."

"I was one of you. I was a typical Canadian. I grew up on the hockey rink and spent my teenage years on stage playing guitar," he said.

"I had no criminal record. I was a bright student and maintained a strong GPA in university. So how could one of your people end up in my place? And why is it that your own people are the ones turning against you at home?" He then warns that Canadians will be "indiscriminately targeted."

For more on the video, see page 2.

Video released

"I was one of you. I was a typical Canadian. I grew up on the hockey rink and spent my teenage years on stage playing guitar."

A man, identified as Abu Anwar al-Canadi, believed to be former Ottawa resident John Maguire, in a video released online

Britannia, Overbrook

Ottawa police probe 2 shootings

The Ottawa police Guns and Gangs Unit is investigating a shooting that happened in Britannia on Thursday evening. Another shooting on Prince Albert Street in Overbrook on Saturday is also under investigation. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Beaconwood Drive

Names in murder-suicide released

Ottawa police released the names of the man and woman found dead in a murder-suicide on Beaconwood Drive Thursday. Police confirmed Yassin Mender, 60, killed his wife, Alem Haile, 51, before ending his life. JOE LOFARO/METRO

'Internal reorganization'

No Ottawa Operation Red Nose this year

The Ottawa branch of Operation Red Nose won't be sending out cars to carry home drunks this year, as "internal reorganization" has left the organization in a scramble as the holidays approach. But spokesman Adam Leclerc said the Outaouais organization in Gatineau will be picking up this year's slack. Danielle Legault, spokeswoman for the Outaouais service, is urging volunteers to come forward to help get people home from holiday parties safely. Drivers can call (819) 771-2886 or visiting www.operationnezrouge.com/en/region/outaouais. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Dec. 5 edition

Correction

Due to a typographical error, a story that appeared in the Dec. 5, 2014 issue of Metro incorrectly stated the number of years Daniel Alfredsson was captain of the Ottawa Senators. Alfredsson was the team's captain from 1999-2013. Metro regrets the error. METRO

Local priest gets support after accusations of sexual assault

United in disbelief.
Congregation hears only one email sent to former priest was negative

An Ottawa Catholic priest who was charged last week with sex offences against a teenage boy has received more than 100 emails of support from his followers, said a priest filling in for the accused man during Sunday morning mass.

Ottawa police charged Father Stephen Amesse, 56, on Thursday, with two counts each of sexual assault and sexual interference. They allege he sexually assaulted a then-14-year-old boy at a west-end church in 2008.

Police said they had been investigating Amesse since they received the complaint in February.

The Archdiocese of Ottawa said he was suspended from the ministry immediately after the arrest.

On Sunday at St. Patrick's Catholic church, where Amesse is a priest, the congregation was united in disbelief.

Father Geoffrey Kerslake told a packed St. Patrick's church Amesse received 128 emails by Friday morning and all but one were "positive."

Kerslake said he was "sad" to be there under the circumstances, but led parishioners through prayer.

"It's tough for everyone. It's tough for this young man, it's tough for Father Steve, it's tough for you," Kerslake told the congregation. "Shock is probably the universal emotion."

The court released Amesse Thursday afternoon on a $5,000 bond. Part of his release conditions prohibit him from contacting the complainant and his family and from being in a position of trust with anyone under the age of 16.

Amesse is due back in court in January.

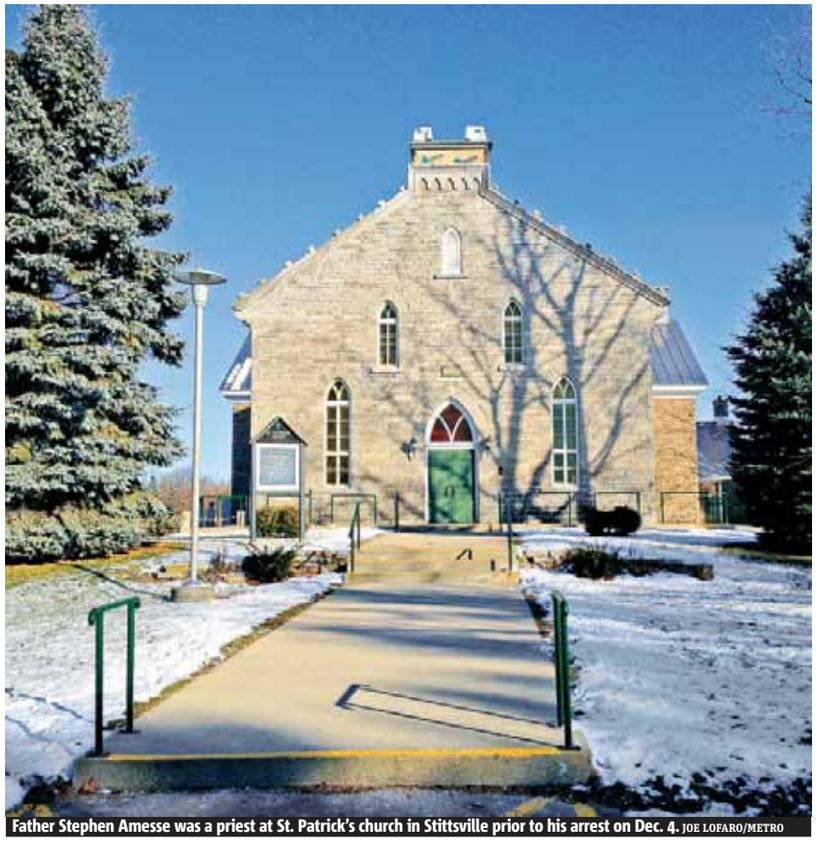
Theresa, a parishioner who would not give her full name, said she has been going to St. Patrick's church for 35 years and could not believe the news on Thursday.

"I was total shock, disbelief, sadness," said Theresa, after attending Sunday mass. "He's been so good for the community. He's always been an active contributor to the church."

According to her, Amesse had been helping with the recent restoration work being done on the church and he had a good rapport with parishioners.

"It's just sad," she said.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO



Father Stephen Amesse was a priest at St. Patrick's church in Stittsville prior to his arrest on Dec. 4. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Expert 'disappointed' by radicalized Ottawa man

ISIL fighter from Ottawa believed to be John Maguire. SCREENSHOT

When Carleton University security expert Wayne Boone saw the most recent video from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), showing a man from Ottawa warning his former countrymen of more attacks, his heart sank.

His first emotion, he said, was "disappointment" at yet another radicalized youth joining the militant group and turning his sights on his homeland. But perhaps most upsetting to Boone is the fact that the man in the video, believed to be John Maguire, had a seemingly normal childhood.

"Can a Canadian kid like this be actually radicalized exclusively online?" he asked.

Boone said he thinks there must have been a hands-on approach to his radicalization — a local mosque or group that helped shape his mind.

While he said the man isn't under duress in the video, Boone said he is "under influence," and is reading from some sort of script.

"I don't believe anybody was holding a gun to his head, literally or figuratively," said Boone. "In many cases, a lot of people who are radicalized like this want to demonstrate their commitment and want to demonstrate their fidelity. These are different ways to do it."

Canadians are on edge over fears that terror is becoming a homegrown threat and Boone says Canadians can do their own part by maintaining relationships with people in their community, by being open and welcoming to newcomers and also by remaining vigilant. He says, "if you see something, say something."

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Forecast. Big snowstorm heading for Ottawa

The first "significant" snowstorm could land in the Ottawa area this week, according to special weather statement issued by Environment Canada on Sunday.

Up to 15 centimetres of snow is possible for regions along the St. Lawrence River beginning Tuesday evening with snow becoming heavier into Wednesday.

Environment Canada said there is also a possibility for freezing rain within the storm system.

Luckily, the forecasted highs for Tuesday and Wednesday only hover around the freezing point.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

St. Lawrence River

15

Up to 15 centimetres is possible for regions along the St. Lawrence River.

Paying respects to Canadian soldiers killed in action

A man kneels as he places a Christmas wreath on a headstone at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa Sunday, during a ceremony to commemorate Canadian soldiers killed in action.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TripJammin app hooks up travellers and locals

No need to stick to the resort. Find people to hang out with before you go

TREVOR GREENWAY
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From left, Ottawa software developer Aaron Davis poses with friends William and Eduardo Mania during a NYE trip last year. CONTRIBUTED

An Ottawa software developer says meeting people abroad is easy — all you need is a little bit of curiosity and his new app that aims to connect travellers with locals around the world.

Aaron Davis created TripJammin after realizing how much more interesting his travels got when he linked up with locals who showed him around.

Instead of sitting on an all-inclusive beach, sipping spirits and stuffing his face with mediocre, American food, Davis has been embracing the cultures all around him.

"Because I taught myself Spanish, it opened up a whole new world for me," said Davis, who experienced the New Year's Eve of a lifetime in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after meeting two locals on a secluded beach off the coast of Nicaragua.

The two Brazilians convinced Davis to come to their home country for the biggest New Year's Eve bash on the planet — with two million others packed onto Copacabana Beach — dancing, eating, swimming. Partying.

"It was the most incredible experience I have ever had," said Davis. "They welcomed me into their home, I met their family, they were incredible, they treated me like a king."

Davis wants others to experience trips like he has — especially those who are a bit shy and have a hard time meeting others.

The free app is fairly simple and allows users to set up a profile with photos and a list of interests. Users can then set up a vacation and see who else is travelling to that spot. The data show how old they are, what their interests are and where they are coming from.

Davis said TripJammin will also be useful for those heading out on cruise ships, as the app will allow you to seek out others from your same city who are taking the same boat.

"If you are thinking about going anywhere, you can just do a search for people that live there or other people that are going there, and you can hook up before you go," he said.

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Locals save Ferris the loon from frozen lake in Quebec

Edelweiss, Que.
Makeshift rescue took about 15 minutes

LUCY SCHOLEY
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Ferris the loon has been saved.

Locals in Edelweiss, Que., successfully rescued the bird who has been stranded on partially frozen Pike Lake since at least Wednesday morning.

Using two canoes tied together, a supply of trout bait and a musky net, the handful of rescuers trekked about 50 feet out onto the ice to recover the loon at 7 a.m.

As the group approached, Ferris hopped out of the water and onto the ice. One rescuer sitting at the bow then used the net to trap the animal, which responded by crying out with its distinct warble.

He managed to push the bird's head down — getting its sharp beak out of harm's way — and place it in a carrier.

The operation took about 15 minutes.

"The loon didn't even dive once. It's as though it was accepting our help," said Celine Perrier, who lives on Chemin Lac Pike and helped with the rescue. "Right after we caught it, it got a nice full belly of trout."

Christopher Harris, an Edelweiss councillor who helped with the rescue, said the trick was to keep their supplies simple. They wore dry suits and life preservers and measured a five-inch thickness in the ice before the rescue.

Locals say Ferris is one of two baby loons who grew up on Pike Lake this summer. The birds fly south for the winter by now. For whatever reason, Ferris did not leave with them.

The pool of water in the ice was not big enough for the loon to make a run and take flight.

Ferris was taken to the Wild Bird Care Centre, where worker Mae Gogue said he will undergo an exam to determine if he is injured or too weak to fly.

If Ferris is healthy, they will release the loon into a body of water long enough for him to take flight.

Quoted

"The loon didn't even dive once. It's as though it was accepting our help."

Celine Perrier, who helped with the rescue

A rescuer, who did not want to be named, successfully traps Ferris the loon, who was stranded on a frozen lake in Edelweiss, Que., on Friday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

'It's like the Uber of deliveries'

A new Ottawa app is designed to take the hassle out of moving.

LocoTruck connects customers who want to move a large piece of furniture with drivers willing to deliver. Customers place an ad for the couch or garage sale purchase and drivers can bid on the moving job.

Anyone with a truck or van who's looking to make extra cash can register to be part of the app.

"It's like the Uber of deliveries," said LocoTruck CEO Cedric Meloche, referring to the controversial rideshare app that launched in Ottawa in October.

Meloche said LocoTruck screens drivers — they request pictures of the drivers, proof of insurance, credit card numbers and vehicle and licence information. Customers agree to a term of conditions that does not hold the LocoTruck responsible for damaged items. The drivers act as independent contractors.

Meloche — who runs the company with Christine Guertin and Paul Charlebois — said they are working on getting GPS tracking in the app so customers can see where the truck is en route.

Cedric Meloche is the CEO of LocoTruck, an app that connects movers with those who need a large item delivered. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

LocoTruck is geared towards students or those who do not have vehicles, and do not want to go through the steps of renting a moving truck.

"Recently, we delivered a bird cage. It wasn't that big, but the lady didn't have transportation.... There were a few truck drivers in the area that wanted to pick it up for 20 bucks," he said, lauding the app as reliable and easy to use.

John Levi, president of the Canadian Association of Movers, said similar online moving services have existed for at least a decade. Although he had not heard of LocoTruck, he cautioned against using this type of service — partly because the company is not responsible for damaged goods.

"This sounds like a whole bunch of folks wanting to get into the moving business without any idea of how to do it, how to do it properly and who should be doing the moves," he said.

LocoTruck has a deal on Christmas tree deliveries. If the tree pickup point is within 10 km of the dropoff point, it will cost $25. A portion of the proceeds will go towards delivering trees to families in need.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Multiple shots fired

Bullet narrowly misses Overbrook resident

A bullet narrowly missed an Overbrook resident after shots were fired into a home in the 300 block of Prince Albert Street Saturday evening.

Multiple shots were fired into the living room window around 6:20 p.m. and although there were three people sitting inside the home, nobody was injured. Police said one of the bullets "narrowly missed" one of the residents.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Goal of $600K

Salvation Army seeking helpers

The Salvation Army says it needs more volunteers for its red Christmas Kettle campaign.

The charity leans on 14,000 volunteers to ring bells at malls, Loblaws, Walmart, LCBOs and other locations to collect donations for the holiday season. Proceeds go towards helping 20,000 people buy meals, emergency food, clothing and pay their rent or utility bills.

Last year, the organization raised $558,000. The goal this year is $600,000. The Christmas Kettle campaign runs until Dec. 24.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Carlington

Seven arrested in john sweep

Ottawa police arrested seven men after conducting a two-day john sweep in Carlington on Nov. 28 and Dec. 5.

Six of the seven men qualified for a pre-charge diversion program known as "john school" while the seventh man was charged with communicating for the purpose of prostitution.

John sweeps are done to "increase community safety and reduce sex trade worker victimization," said Ottawa police in a news release.

Ottawa police announced the sweep on the day the federal government's new prostitution laws that target johns came into effect.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Wynne says sex workers' safety a worry

New prostitution laws. Ontario premier wants assurances that legislation is not a breach of Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne
DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says she is concerned the country's new prostitution law fails to make sex workers safer, and is seeking advice on whether it is in line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Wynne says she has asked the province's attorney general to advise her on the legislation's "constitutional validity" in light of the Supreme Court of Canada ruling quashing the old law.

In her statement Sunday Wynne says she has also asked to be given "options" in case the law's charter compatibility is questioned, but adds the province will still enforce it.

The new law took effect Saturday and more than 60 organizations and agencies from across the country are calling for its non-enforcement and repeal. Those groups voiced concern the new law will continue to leave sex workers at risk as under the old system — a sentiment Wynne also expressed.

It's the latest flare-up between Wynne and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who Wynne has said is refusing to meet to discuss issues of importance to the province.

The sweeping new changes to the way prostitution is regulated in Canada follow the Supreme Court decision last year that found the old laws violated the rights of prostitutes.

The new rules criminalize the purchase of sex as well as things like advertising or other forms of communication related to its sale, while providing some legal immunity for sex workers themselves.

"I have listened to the debate that has taken place over the last year, and particularly since the introduction of Bill C-36. And I am left with grave concern that the so-called Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act will protect neither 'exploited persons' nor 'communities,'" Wynne's statement reads.

"I am not an expert, and I am not a lawyer, but as premier of this province, I am concerned that this legislation (now the law of the land) will not make sex workers safer," she adds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paying tribute to a legend

Mourners file past the casket Sunday in Montreal to pay their respects during the public viewing for the Montreal Canadiens legend Jean Béliveau. Béliveau died at the age of 83. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper changes stance on election money

Prime Minister Stephen Harper used to contend that money does not influence the outcome of elections.

He used to rail against any attempt to limit the amount of money outside advocacy groups could spend during campaigns. And he used to strenuously object to any attempts to compel those groups to disclose from whom they got their money or how they spent it.

That was, of course, before he became prime minister. Now, Harper heads a party that accuses labour unions of trying to "bully and influence our elections from the outside" and routinely uses the spectre of dastardly union politicking to drum up donations the Conservatives say are urgently needed to ensure victory in next year's election.

And he heads a government bent on forcing unions to disclose the salaries of their employees and just how they spend the money they collect from members' dues.

Former Liberal cabinet minister Don Boudria stops just short of calling it hypocrisy.

"I think this is a case of that was then and this is now," says Boudria, who was named in a court challenge launched by private citizen Stephen Harper in 2000 against the then-Liberal government's so-called "gag law" limiting spending by outside third parties during election campaigns.

"The ironies are all over the place," added Boudria.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Veterans Affairs. Cuts hurt disability awards branch

Some of the biggest job cuts at Veterans Affairs in recent years have been in the disability awards branch, the division targeted in a recent auditor general's report for taking too long to decide on benefit claims of former soldiers.

Performance reports going back to 2009 show that about 897 positions have been eliminated across Veterans Affairs, with 33 per cent from the section that administers pensions and awards.

The records show the health and rehabilitation branches lost about 372 positions in the same time frame.

Commemorations, the division that celebrates past wars and maintains memorials, was reduced by 17.2 per cent, while internal services — Prime Minister Stephen Harper described it last week as "backroom administration" — lost 71 positions, just 10.1 per cent.

The disability and death compensation branch underspent its budget by $121 million, a 2013-14 departmental performance report said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inconclusive tests

Dead orca carrying full-term fetus

A necropsy has revealed that a dead orca spotted floating on Vancouver Island was pregnant with a full-term fetus.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans spokeswoman Lara Sloan says tests to determine the cause of death were inconclusive.

She says more tests will be done on the whale, identified as J-32, which scientists say would have contributed to its pod for decades.

The loss is considered a blow to recovery efforts because there are so few breeding females.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tough time of year for families of the missing

Aboriginal women. Special event to help those left behind have happier Christmas

For Bernadette Smith, Christmas was a time for large family gatherings, lots of food and the exchange of gifts.

But since her sister Claudette Osborne disappeared in 2008, Smith finds it hard to focus on anything other than her sibling's empty chair.

"It's hard to see other families gathering together and sharing those special times you can't share with your loved one," Smith says.

"It should be an uplifting time of year, but there is no celebration when you don't have your loved one home — when they've been murdered, you don't have answers or they're still out there missing."

With about 1,200 missing or murdered aboriginal women across Canada, families are left mourning in a void, while often struggling to find money for food and gifts for children left behind.

In Manitoba, Nahanni Fontaine reaches out to bereaved families. Fontaine, a special adviser on aboriginal women's issues for the Manitoba government, has for years organized a Christmas party, including a turkey buffet, a tree, Santa and a special place for framed pictures of missing and murdered women.

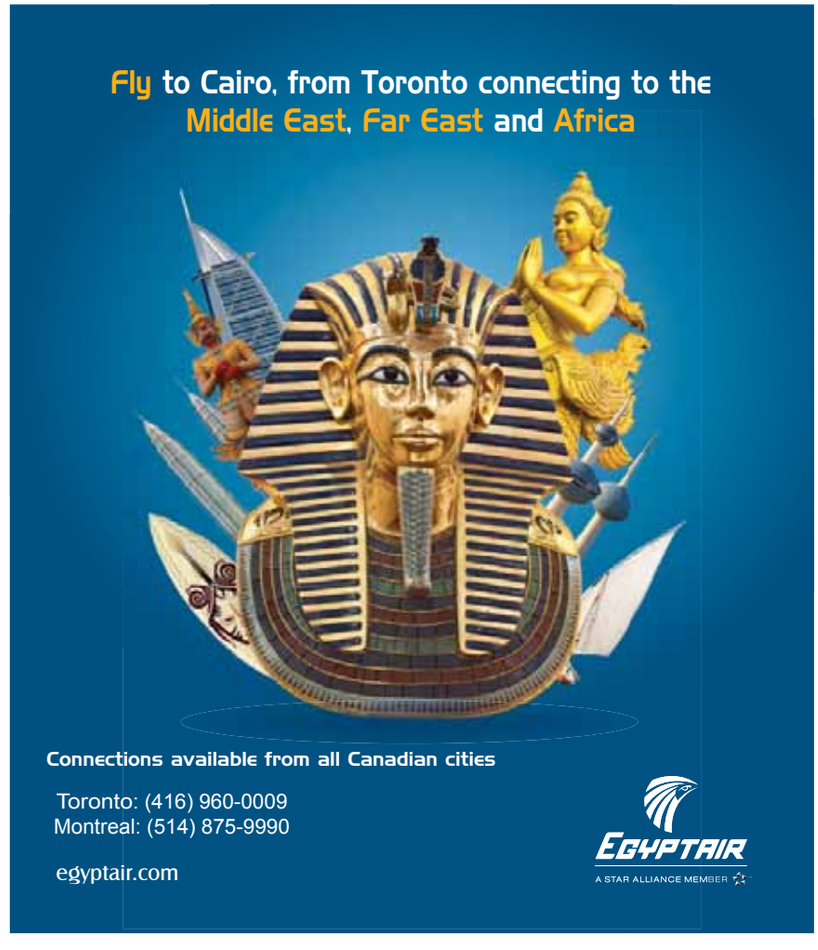
The first year, there were 40 children. This year, there will be 70.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Eric Robinson said it costs the government about $2,000.

"It takes away a few tears for a while anyway," he said. "The kids get spoiled for a few hours. That's a good thing."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bernadette Smith speaks with senior police officers outside the Manitoba legislature in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS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Protests rock California

Chokehold death. Despite peaceful protests over court decision not to indict N.Y.C. officer, California demonstrators loot, vandalize

Mostly peaceful protests of a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man continued around the country, but authorities said a march in California turned violent when a splinter group smashed windows and threw objects at police.

A Berkeley police officer received hospital treatment for a dislocated shoulder after being hit with a sandbag, while another sustained minor injuries, police spokeswoman Jenn Coats said.

She said several businesses were looted and damaged when a splinter group broke from the peaceful demonstration Saturday night, and officers attempting to get the crowd to disperse used smoke and tear gas. Protesters threw rocks, bricks, bottles, pipes at officers, and some squad cars were damaged. At least six people had been arrested by the time the unrest ended early Sunday morning, Coats said.

Thousands have protested peacefully in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, Miami and Las Vegas since the announcement Wednesday that a grand jury declined to indict a white officer in the death of Eric Garner, a black man who gasped, "I can't breathe," while being placed in a chokehold as he was being arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

The decision followed a Ferguson, Mo., grand jury's choice not to indict a white officer in the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The scope of the demonstrations and the lack of violence were moving to Garner's mother and, she said Saturday.

"It is just so awesome to see how the crowds are out there," said Eric Garner's mother, Gwen Carr.

"I was just so proud of that crowd. It just warmed my heart." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators toss smoke bombs during a march in Berkeley, Calif. on Saturday. Two officers were injured Saturday night at the protest when things turned violent, with protesters smashing windows and throwing bricks at police, authorities said. SAM WOLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Typhoon Hagupit kills 3, sends 900,000 people to shelters

Strong waves crash into coastal houses as Typhoon Hagupit pounds the Phillippines' Legazpi, Albay province on Sunday. Typhoon Hagupit knocked out power in entire coastal provinces, mowed down trees and sent more than 900,000 people into shelters before it weakened Sunday.

AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Driving ban. Women held nearly a week for violation

Two Saudi women activists have been detained for nearly a week for defying the kingdom's ban on women driving, family members and an activist said Sunday.

The women, who were arrested after driving into Saudi Arabia from the United Arab Emirates, are supporters of a grassroots campaign launched in October 2013 against the ban.

Organizers say the ban on women driving underpins issues in Saudi Arabia that give men great influence over women's lives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the women, Loujain al-Hathloul, seen driving Nov. 30. LOUJAIN AL-HATHLOUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel

Military to look into airstrike deaths

The Israeli military says it opened a criminal investigation into a deadly airstrike from the last Gaza war. At least 24 members of the Abu Jamea family were killed in the July 20 strike on their home.

They included 18 children between the ages of six months and nine years, according to death certificates obtained by The Associated Press. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India

Uber driver arrested over rape allegations

Indian police arrested a driver from the international taxi-booking service Uber Sunday for allegedly raping a young woman in the capital.

Shiv Kumar Yadav, 32, was arrested in his hometown of Mathura, about 160 kilometres south of New Delhi, where the rape allegedly took place Friday, police officer Jag Niwas said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chlorine forces evacuation of hotel hosting a 'FurFest'

Suburban Chicago.
Chlorine gas sends 19 to hospital; police say they believe it was released intentionally

Chlorine gas sickened several people and forced the evacuation of thousands of guests from a suburban Chicago hotel early Sunday, including many dressed in cartoonish animal costumes for an annual furries convention who were ushered across the street to a convention centre that was hosting a dog show.

Nineteen people who became nauseous or dizzy were treated at local hospitals, and at least 18 were released shortly thereafter.

The source of the gas was apparently chlorine powder left in a ninth-floor stairwell at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, according to the Rosemont Public Safety Department. Investigators say they believe the gas was created intentionally and are treating it as a criminal matter.

The hotel is hosting the 2014 Midwest FurFest convention, also called Anthrocon, where attendees celebrate animals that are anthropomorphic — meaning they've been given human characteristics — through art, literature and performance.

Many of the attendees, who refer to themselves as "furries," wore cartoonish animal outfits.

They said they had come for fun, but also for the spiritual and artistic aspects of the convention, during which they celebrate animal characters from movies, TV shows, comic books, video games and characters they create themselves.

Anthrocon conventions typically draw thousands of participants from around the world, many dressed in costumes that they say can cost as much as $3,000.

Guests were allowed to return a few hours later after the hotel had been decontaminated, and by mid-morning the furries were pouring back in.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Furries at a Chicago hotel Sunday where police believe chlorine gas was deliberately released. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DiMaggio and Miller

Marilyn Monroe love letters fetch big bucks

Joe DiMaggio's love letter to Marilyn Monroe has sold for $78,125 at a Beverly Hills auction.

Julien's Auctions says the letter was written by the New York Yankees star after Monroe announced she was divorcing him.

Written in 1954, it was among 300 items that sold. A letter from Monroe to her third and final husband, playwright Arthur Miller, sold for $43,750.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona Zoo

Man rescued from lions' den

Officials in Spain say a man has been rescued from the lions' enclosure at Barcelona Zoo after being seriously mauled by three lions. Witnesses say a man wearing a military-style uniform jumped into the den. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Low oil prices may hit banks' bottom line

Worry. TD Bank has been impacted by the price of petroleum and there is concern other lenders are at risk, too

Oil prices that reached a five-year low on Friday are starting to take a bite out of profits at TD Bank and raising concerns for the rest of the country's top lenders.

Canada's biggest banks earn up to 20 per cent of their revenues through providing investment and corporate banking services, with oil and gas companies an important part of that client base.

But with oil prices slipping — they have tumbled roughly 35 per cent to under $70 a barrel from their mid-summer highs due to a strong U.S. dollar, low demand and a glut of global supply — TD Bank says it will have to look beyond the oilpatch to make up its investment banking revenue.

"With the current activity going on in oil pricing, it certainly is impacting activity levels in the business," Bob Dorrance, the head of TD's wholesale banking division, told investors during a conference call earlier this week after the bank reported its fourth quarter results.

"Things have slowed down."

The energy sector, a major weight on the Toronto Stock Exchange, has taken a beating on the markets and taken other stocks, including those with indirect exposure to companies that produce crude, down with it.

While all of the country's top lenders reported substantial profits during the quarter, Canaccord Genuity analyst Gabriel Deschaine noted that lacklustre performance on the stock markets caused many of the banks to report weaker than expected revenues from their brokerage businesses.

Scotia Capital analyst Sumit Malhotra says roughly 30 per cent of the underwriting fees — fees from administering new issues on the stock markets — earned by Canada's six top banks this year came from the energy sector.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilpatch companies

The plummeting oil prices have also caused some concerns about whether oilpatch companies will default on their loans and create financial burdens for the banks.

- The big banks say they are regularly performing stress tests on their loan portfolios to see how they will fare in a continued low oil price environment.

Malls warm up to 'shoppertainment'

The Urban Lodge at the Eaton Centre in Toronto offers customers seating, free Wi-Fi and complimentary charging stations for mobile devices. Experts say with the rise of online shopping, malls must provide people with "shoppertainment" to get them through the door over the Christmas holidays. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Controversy

Money Mart halts gift card program

Money Mart agreed to suspend its controversial program of offering cash for gift cards at half of their face value Friday after a call from Ontario's Consumer Services Ministry.

The government issued a news release saying the payday loan company "voluntarily suspended the gift card exchange pilot program," which Money Mart had defended earlier Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dutch-based company

Mexx declares bankruptcy

Fashion retailer Mexx has declared bankruptcy, becoming the latest fashion retailer forced to liquidate its stock. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

SETTING THE RULES

Despite the tedious, technical business, Metro columnist Steve Collins says it was encouraging to see the supremacy of council explicitly reinforced on Day 1

STEVE COLLINS
ottawa@metronews.ca

The last of the Tim Hortons cookies from last Monday's inauguration were long devoured. Mayor Jim Watson's second term presiding over council had begun and it was time to get down to business: Tedious, technical business.

Council's first meeting on Wednesday was devoted to the "2014-2018 Governance Review," an exhaustive set of tweaks to the ground rules for conducting the city's affairs. The sheer volume of these could have intimidated new councillors, and perhaps tempted them with recourse to the rubber stamp, but this year's freshmen and women jumped right in with their more experienced colleagues.

Some items may not have merited the amount of breath expended on them, such as fine-tuning the dollar value of gifts councillors can accept without declaring them. The threshold had been $30, but ethics commissioner Bob Marleau opined this was causing excessive paperwork for swag like ball caps and books, trinkets he deemed exceedingly unlikely to endanger councillors' integrity or public perception thereof. Staff looked at other cities — Hamilton sets the bar at $100, Toronto at $500 — and recommended a $150 threshold. Much (maybe too much) discussion ensued before council accepted a tighter limit of $100.

Another seemingly innocuous fix — cutting scheduled meetings for the transit commission and the community and protective services and environment committees to eight a year — got a red light from Coun. Diane Deans. She pointed out committee meetings are the forum where public delegations get their say, and maybe the committee doing the work is best placed to decide how many meetings that work will take. And so these bodies will decide for themselves how and when they'll meet, with input from the public. How hard was that?

Another first-termer, Coun. Jeff Leiper, brought a motion to delay budget-related changes while a much-cited stricture, that committees can introduce new spending only if they find another area of their budget to cut by the same amount, got a closer look.

The rule, brought in last term to enforce fiscal discipline, has frustrated some councillors who found it prevented them from making almost any changes to the draft budget once it was tabled. Leiper ultimately pulled his motion, but only after it produced two interesting results.

First, the mayor and staff found themselves on the spot to clarify that while the restriction holds at the committee level, council as a whole can still move money between departmental budgets, and indeed has done so on occasion.

Second, some councillors expressed surprise at discovering they had this power. Coun. Deans asked staff how she and her colleagues might have found themselves labouring under the misconception that they didn't. The response, innocently delivered, boiled down to "Gosh, good question!" I can hazard a guess: In the last term of council, the maxim that new spending must be offset by equivalent cuts was repeated ad nauseam, drilled into the heads of councillors and the public by the mayor and staff.

That little detail about the supremacy of council, in comparison, seemed almost buried in the fine print. It was encouraging this time around to see it explicitly reinforced on Day 1.

Your Ottawa

Show and tell with the CFL

Redblacks vice-president of partnerships and merchandise Adrian Sciarra shows his children Daniel, 7, Ava, 5, and Luca, 3, scratches on a helmet that was worn by quarterback Alex Carder.

The show-and-tell session happened during a locker-room sale that saw fans of the teams get a chance to buy collectors' items worn by the players in the team's first year and get a behind-the-scenes peek at what a CFL locker-room looks like. **SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO**

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Happening now

City petitioned to recognize Alfredsson with street name

A petition being circulated on Change.org is asking the City of Ottawa to rename Palladium Drive to Alfredsson Way.

The Kanata roadway is one of the last reminders of the original name of the stadium that is now known as the Canadian Tire Centre. Other incarnations of the naming rights have been the Corel Centre and Scotiabank Place. Alfredsson, who played for the Senators from 1994-2013, played in the stadium under all of its names. The petition had 1,500 supporters as of Sunday afternoon.

The petition reads:

"In following the theme of naming the streets around the Canadian Tire Centre after Ottawa Senators Legends such as Cyclone Taylor Boulevard, Frank Nighbor Place, Frank Finnigan Way and Silver Sevens Road, it would be a great idea to honour the longest reigning captain of the modern day Ottawa Senators by updating the name of Palladium Drive to Alfredsson Way as well as changing the address of the arena to 1111.

"Daniel Alfredsson, the all-time leading scorer of the team, has been instrumental in mental health awareness with the Royal Ottawa Hospital as well as various children's charities throughout the community.

"We encourage you to spread the word and join in on this petition to pay tribute to a legacy and model citizen of the nation's capital."

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

metro

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kirk Cameron GETTY IMAGES

There's no Saving Christmas for Kirk Cameron turkey

Former Growing Pains star and outspoken evangelical Christian Kirk Cameron learned the hard way that the Internet is basically like quicksand: The more you struggle, the worse it gets.

Last month, Cameron balked at the abysmal score for his new film, Saving Christmas, on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, so he called his fans to action to improve the score by flooding the site with good reviews.

Of course, Rotten Tomatoes doesn't really work that way, but that's beside the point. What happened instead? Well, Cameron just encouraged online pranksters to go to town, pushing the film to the No. 1 stop on IMDb's 100 Worst Movies list, determined by user ratings on the film database.

And unless he can encourage his fans to start voting down Birdemic: Shock and Terror so its ranking dips below the 1.5 stars Saving Christmas currently has, it's an honour he'll hold for a while.

Wahlberg lobbies to wipe black Mark from his past

When Mark Wahlberg was 16 years old — before he became Marky Mark and, I'm assuming, hooked up with the Funky Bunch — he was a bit of a bad seed.

So bad, in fact, that he was convicted of assault and tried as an adult, serving 45 days in prison.

Well, now he'd like all that wiped off his record, according to a petition he's submitted.

"I am deeply sorry for the actions that I took on the night of April 8, 1988, as well as for any lasting damage I may have caused the victims," he writes in the petition.

Those actions, by the way, involve assaulting a man while attempting to steal beer outside a convenience store and then punching another man in the face while he fled. My question is, where was Donnie Wahlberg during all of this?

Mark Wahlberg GETTY IMAGES

7th Heaven rerun revival plummets to Earth

Back in October, following revelations that 7th Heaven star Stephen Collins had allegedly confessed to molesting young girls, the wholesome family drama was understandably pulled from cable network UP TV's schedule. Well, last month they tried to quietly slip the series back onto the lineup, but fans understandably weren't having it.

"We brought the show back because many viewers expressed they could separate allegations against one actor from the fictional series itself; as it turns out they cannot," a statement from the network reads. "We will be taking the show back off the air."

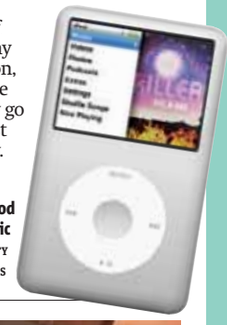
Stephen Collins GETTY IMAGES

iPod you not! Music lovers pay big notes for Classics

All that outrage over Apple sneakily discontinuing the popular iPod Classic in the wake of the iPhone 6 and Apple Watch announcements has given way to some impressive price-gouging, as fans are now apparently willing to shell out quite a bit for the dedicated music player. The 160-gigabyte capacity iPod Classics are now selling for as much as £670 (or about $1,190) in the U.K., according to the Guardian, while in the U.S. they're topping out on Amazon at the seemingly much more reasonable $490.

But that's still a lot more than the $249 the Classic went for before being killed off. Oh, and if you've got an old iPod Classic kicking around and want to cash in, even used ones are going for up to $500 on eBay.

But if this is any indication, that price will only go up, so list carefully.



iPod Classic GETTY IMAGES

Jessica Simpson INSTAGRAM

Jessica will not sweep her love under the rug

Instagram is a great venue for making personal confessions or proclamations of love, or just releasing news.

And it looks like Jessica Simpson decided to do all three in one very simple photo, stating quite bravely on the site, "I love carpet." No links, no hashtags, nothing to muddy the message.

So, there you have it.

SCENE

DVD reviews

Guardians of the Galaxy

Director. James Gunn

Stars. Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper

What do you do when you have a bunch of raggedy characters and ideas and you want to make a movie out of them, perhaps even a franchise? If you're Marvel Comics, you make Guardians of the Galaxy, a summer hit that turned leftovers into one of the year's tastiest dishes.

These Guardians are a motley crew of celestial badasses: giant grunting tree Groot (Vin Diesel); sarcastic mutant varmint Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper); pompous tattooed strongman Drax (Dave Bautista); and green-skinned ninja Gamora, played by Zoe Saldana. The fifth member is the only human one: Chris Pratt's treasure raider Peter Quill, who was abducted as a child and inducted by mercenary space scavengers into their business. They all have their own attitudes and agendas, but fate — in the form of an all-powerful orb that could destroy the universe — forces them to work together.

Frank

Director. Lenny Abrahamson

Star. Michael Fassbender

Bat-dung crazy, in a good way, Lenny Abrahamson's Frank is the story of a pop star who really lets his art go to his head. A giant papier-mâché one, which Michael Fassbender wears throughout his title performance as a musician afflicted, or blessed, with the same kind of arty madness as the late Captain Beefheart and Pink Floyd's Syd Barrett. For most of the film, we're left wondering if Frank is pulling our leg or leading us toward something dark and sinister.

PETER HOWELL

It takes a crowd to cross ethnic borders

Sandra Oh. Former Grey's Anatomy star seeks funding for new film project she hopes will better represent young Asian women

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

After 10 seasons on Grey's Anatomy, actress Sandra Oh is going in a very different direction for her next project. Oh is lending her voice and producing power to Window Horses, an animated film about a young Canadian poet of Chinese and Iranian descent. And she's also learning a lot about the world of crowdfunding, thanks to the film's extensive Indiegogo campaign.

You've been busy since leaving Grey's Anatomy.
I'm super-excited to be working on Window Horse and kind of producing for the first time, which for me is a whole new hat and a whole new learning curve, which is great. It's so exciting for me. After a decade of Grey's, the thing I fall in love with is an animated film! So I thought I'd try to get that made.

What was it about this project that spoke to you?
For me, Window Horses is so pro-girl, it's pro-tolerance, it's pro-diversity and it's set in the world of poetry. These are all things I feel extremely invested in and extremely interested in sharing. I feel that race is deeply a part of everyday life, and to be a spokesperson or to put stories out there about people who don't get represented is something I'm really interested in and very invested in. I realized while watching things that are geared towards young people, young girls, I still do not see myself represented as an Asian person. Absolutely not, even with the headway that we have made.

How do we get to a place where projects that are pro-girl and pro-diversity don't just seem like no-brainers?
I honestly don't know. I'm fully aware that the Indiegogo campaign is an outsider's way of making work, and honestly that's why it appeals to me. Having been inside, in some ways, for the past decade on a very successful and very well-funded television show — which was an amazing, amazing experience — I just want to take what I know from that and bring it to another audience, an audience that is not as well-represented, who actually wants to hear different stories, not mainstream stories. I'm honestly sick of seeing the same story over and over and over again. All you have to do is look at reality television. All those things are the same!

What has (Grey's creator) Shonda Rhimes done for representation on TV?
There's so much Grey's did for diversity on television, and the style of the show was that we never talked about race. The way that her track record can actually prove, in a physical, monetized way, that people will watch a TV show when there are black people on it, to be quite blunt — it's like, yes! And other stories, other faces that maybe we're not used to seeing as the primary storytellers. Who are we following? Who's story are we following?

The character in Window Horses is this mixed-race young woman who is trying to discover herself and who has an artist's voice and goes and finds it in another country. I just know that there is an audience for that. I know there is a girl out there who is going to see herself in this character, and I want her to see it.

Sandra Oh is crowdfunding for an animated film about a young Canadian poet. GETTY IMAGES

How has it been so far interacting with that audience?
It's very new for us. I'm sure there are a lot of other people who are pros at it, and the way we're doing it is our own way. It's mysterious in its own way because you have no idea what will happen, and I just hope that people will see it and say, "I want to see a stick-figure character who has two little slits for eyes and is wearing a chador, I want to see her up there so I'm going to donate."

It's a platform to connect with people — to connect with like-minded people. Just the amount of people who have responded to it and want to tell their own stories, it's a like a floodgate. When people — or let's say larger organizations or paradigm structures — say that no one wants to hear these stories, I just don't believe it. I don't believe it at all.

Streaming. Ritter lands role as Jessica Jones in Marvel series for Netflix

Krysten Ritter AFP

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Krysten Ritter has landed the role of Jessica Jones, the superheroine turned private eye whose series will air on Netflix.

The actress was chosen over four other candidates: Marin Ireland, Alexandra Daddario, Teresa Palmer and Jessica de Gouw. The news is not yet confirmed.

Ritter has an extensive TV resumé, including roles on Don't Trust the B— in Apartment 23, The Blacklist, Veronica Mars and Breaking Bad. Also a regular on the big screen, she will soon appear in Tim Burton's Big Eyes and in the comedy Search Party.

Jessica Jones will be the second of four series ordered by Netflix from Marvel, each dedicated to a lesser-known superhero. AFP

Download this! Metro gives you its weekly picks for the best in gaming, apps and ebooks

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Ebooks

The Sailor's Dream

By. Jonas Tarestad and Jonathan Eng

iPad/iPhone

Time passes in this novella when you're not reading it. Open it after an hour or a day and new pages appear. Hidden within interactive illustrations, story snippets float up like repressed memories. The narrative is hard to follow, but the experience is poetic.

App

TouchCast: Imagine

iPad
Free

Record yourself singing John Lennon's Imagine and you can join UNICEF and the United Nations for the world's largest sing-along music video, to be released this New Year's Eve.

Video game

Name. Pokémon Omega Ruby/Alpha Sapphire

For. Nintendo 3DS/2DS

Rated. Everyone

The way this game sets you up to battle your father is the best approach yet to the theme of finding independence in childhood. That you can now decorate and share your own secret bases online or compete in a Contest Spectacular is all fun, but it's still the little story moments that offer real charm.

Wrap up the year with savings

Money makeover.
The tree isn't the only thing that needs trimming in December

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

Take an hour today to go over all of your bills so you're familiar with where your money is going. ISTOCK

When was the last time you actually read your bills? Most people just pay 'em without giving a second thought to whether they're getting their money's worth.

Since you work hard for your money, doesn't it make sense to see if it's going where it will do you the most good? As we round the corner into a new year, this is a good time to stop and take stock of how you've been spending your money.

People shell out thousands a year on home phone and cellphone bills. A little attention could net you a cheaper plan that gets you what you need and puts money into your savings account. Ditto your cable and gas bills, your credit card and bank statements.

Today, spend one hour going over all your bills so you're completely familiar with where your money is going.

Look for all the things you pay for, but seldom use, and as you chop, trim, slice and dice, make a list of the money you're saving.

With electricity costs going up, saving money is as simple as unplugging unused appliances. Even when your appliances aren't in use, if they're plugged in, they're using electricity. And some appliances are energy pigs. Did you know your DVR is using more power than your fridge?

Do you know what you paid in service charges last month? No? Time to read your bill! I've looked through bank statements showing a $20 withdrawal holding hands with a $3 fee. That's a 15 per cent fee. If you're usin' an ATM like a wallet, what's wrong with you?

Then there are the dopes that think living in overdraft is a good idea. It's not just the monthly fee (if you even have a plan, 'cause I've seen some folks paying $5 a day for every day they're in overdraft), there's the interest charge too. No, that's not 1.75 per cent a year ... that's a month, which translates into 21 per cent a year. OD was never meant as a cash-flow supplement; it was always meant for emergencies. If you are always in overdraft, it's because you haven't cozied up to a budget. Do it.

Don't forget those bills that come less often, like your home and car insurance. My last home insurance bill went up by 16 per cent. You might be surprised at how easy it is to save some money just by shopping around online.

While you might have grown very comfortable with the insurance company or broker with whom you've been dealing, if you can save a couple of hundred bucks a year by shopping around, that's nothing to sneeze at. Your premiums will also go down if you choose a higher deductible. The standard deductible is $500. Since you're unlikely to make an insurance claim for such a piddly amount, raise the deductible on your policy and add a little extra to your emergency fund to cover the difference. And bundling home and vehicle insurance together could save you more than $300. Hey, that's worth the call to consolidate, isn't it?

Eliminate just $50 worth of monthly spending, and you'll have $600 to add to your savings this year. Take that $600, invest it in an RRSP at an average return of 5 per cent, and reinvest your tax refund every year to make your RRSP contribution grow, and in:

20 years you'll have $29,610
25 years you'll have $37,485
30 years you'll have $45,360
35 years you'll have $53,235
40 years you'll have $95,424

... all from a measly little $50 a month. Can you imagine what you could do with $100?

Cut the waste

If you find places where you're surprised at what you've been shelling out all this time, it may be time to re-evaluate what you're getting for what you're spending.

- Are you paying to have movies piped in, but never seem to watch? Axe it.
- Buying services at a premium? Move to a lower level of service and save the difference. That's more money for your savings.
- Paying for membership at a gym that you haven't visited in six months? Lose it.
- Paid even $1 in banking machine fees? Do you really think your bank needs your money more than you do?

Expert tips for those holiday gratuities

Tipping may be customary after visits to the salon or local coffee shop, but should patrons be expected to dig even deeper when doling out gratuities during the holidays?

"It's kind of a difficult subject to give a straight percentage just because it's depending on so many different factors ... and the relationship you have with that person," said Toronto-based etiquette expert Louise Fox, host of MannersTV.com. "How long have you known them? What do they do for you?"

Etiquette experts Karen Cleveland and Margaret Page each say a good barometer is to double the amount of the usual gratuity, or alternatively, offer the cost of the service they typically provide.

"Let's say you have a neighbourhood kid who comes and shovels your snow and you normally hand him a $20 — maybe give him an extra $20. Or, if you typically tip your stylist 10 bucks, double it. Whatever you feel is appropriate," said Toronto-based Cleveland, writer of the column Finishing School.

"And if that's not in your budget, write them a handwritten note. No one is going to scoff at a beautiful, thoughtful note to appreciate their help if a bill doesn't fall out."

The most important thing is for people to give as much as they feel comfortable, said Vancouver-based Page, a business etiquette expert, professional speaker and coach.

Experts share some additional guidelines on tipping specific service providers.

Hairstylists: "You might give them a nice card saying: 'Thank you for your service throughout the year' and a fruit basket or a box of cookies you made," said Fox.

Newspaper or letter carrier: Cleveland suggested writing a card showing gratitude for the service rather than a specific provider.

"It might not make it into the hands of the person that actually delivers your paper, because that may be 20 people in the course of a year. But the person who picks up that card will feel really good."

Babysitters: Teens who look after kids while parents are away are also deserving of recognition. "Something that's maybe the equivalent of what you'd pay them for a job is always a good guideline," said Fox.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What should you give your hairstylist for the holidays? ISTOCK

When the going gets ruff, call on a campus canine

Education. Post-secondary schools turn to therapy dogs to help high-strung students

MOLLY CONGDON
Metro in New York City

"Doggy!" This is the reaction most people have when a dog crosses their path. For years, studies have examined how dogs help people deal with difficult topics such as illnesses and grief.

Given this, it seems only natural that college campuses across the country would start to use therapy dogs to help relieve the significant stress among students that can build up as they juggle science labs, work-study jobs and writing 20 page papers.

Enter Jersey, an adopted Carolina blend who recently became Drexel University's first canine employee. (He even has his own official identification card).

Kathryn Formica and Jersey hard at work in their shared office. CONTRIBUTED

With Jersey's hiring, Drexel became the first university in the country to have an on-site therapy dog throughout the academic year.

Jersey can be found on the third floor of the recreation centre in the office of Kathryn Formica, his owner and the co-ordinator of student fitness and wellness in the Drexel Recreation Center. Formica explains that she sees an average of 10 to 25 student visitors per day, but around midterms it spiked to 30 students or more.

"I was excited that he's not in a library setting, because it gets students into our building to see the gym facilities," Formica says. "They can see other alternative ways to relieve stress."

Dogs just make people happy, Formica notes in observing Jersey's popularity.

"Jersey reminds them of home," Formica says.

"He makes them feel safe and secure; he brings instant smiles and happiness."

Other schools that have incorporated therapy dogs into campus life include Harvard, which has a Shih Tzu named Cooper in their Library of Medicine and New York University which has had therapy dogs visit their campus to interact with law students.

No pup of your own?

- **Go for a stroll.** Head to a local park near campus and park yourself on a bench, Trust us, you'll see lots of dogs walking with their humans.
- **Create your own private session.** Find a pet store and pick an adorable dog to look at. That will get you at least 10 minutes of puppy love.

Keeping quiet after an incident

Career. New online poll finds that most people do not report sexual harassment at work

A new poll has found that four out of five respondents who say they were sexually harassed in the workplace did not report it to their employer.

The online poll of more than 1,500 people conducted by Angus Reid said those who reported harassment offered a number of reasons for not coming forward.

Most said they preferred to handle the problem on their own, while others cited fear that their career would suffer, embarrassment or they felt the incident was too minor in nature.

The poll found 28 per cent of the women and men who participated reported unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or sexually charged talk in the past two years.

The polling industry's professional body, the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association, says online surveys can't be assigned a margin of error as they are not a random sample and therefore the surveys are not necessarily representative of the whole population.

The issue of workplace harassment has gained prominence since the CBC fired radio host Jian Ghomeshi after a number of women accused him of physical and sexual harassment.

He has admitted to engaging in rough sex, but has said the encounters were consensual.

Toronto police recently laid criminal charges including four counts of sexual assault against Ghomeshi after three women came forward alleging physical and sexual harassment.

Ghomeshi's lawyer has said her client will plead not guilty to the charges.

The issue gained further prominence after two female New Democrat members of Parliament came forward and accused two Liberal MPs of misconduct and the Liberals were suspended from caucus.

Three quarters of those who took part in the online panel poll said sexual harassment in the workplace should receive far more attention than it does.

The survey defined sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal — non-touching — conduct of a sexual nature.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Female focus

43 %

Results of an Angus Reid study indicated that women were four times as likely to be on the receiving end of sexual harassment than men; 43 per cent compared to 12 per cent.

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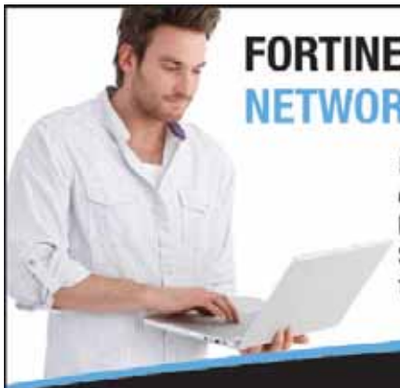

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Veg up gnocchi with kale and squash

Dinner. Typically served with a simple sauce, this potato pasta gets a healthy makeover

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

This recipe serves six. ROSE REISMAN

Gnocchi is a version of pasta made from potato, egg and flour. It's a wonderful appetizer or main meal especially during the colder months, which means right now!

Gnocchi doesn't just have to be paired with a tomato sauce.

To make this a heartier dish, I've added cubes of butternut squash, which are filled with vitamin A and C, potassium and fibre. Super green kale, meanwhile, is a cancer-fighting cruciferous vegetable that contains daily amounts of vitamin K, C and A.

If you like a more flavourful cheese than Parmesan, try Romano or Pecorino.

Ingredients

- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp crushed garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 cup diced butternut squash
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1 lb gnocchi
- 8 cups chopped kale leaves
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Directions

1. Preheat broiler.

2. In large skillet, sauté onion in vegetable oil for 3 minutes on medium heat. Add garlic, salt and pepper, squash and red bell pepper, sauté for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

3. Meanwhile, bring a pot of water to a boil. Add gnocchi and bring back to a boil. Cook for 4 or 5 minutes, or just until the gnocchi rise to the top and are tender. Add kale during last two minutes of cooking. Drain well and add gnocchi and kale to squash mixture. Add Parmesan cheese.

4. Spray a 9x13 inch casserole dish with vegetable oil. Add gnocchi mixture and garnish with mozzarella cheese. Broil for two minutes or just until cheese has melted.

Side or main dish. Roasted Eggplant with Chickpeas and Feta and Mushrooms

This recipe serves four. ROSE REISMAN

1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Slice eggplant in half lengthwise. Spray baking sheet with vegetable oil, and roast eggplant 15 mins., then remove. Preheat oven to broil.

2. Meanwhile, in skillet, heat oil and sauté onions, mushrooms and garlic 5 minutes or until mushrooms dry.

3. Remove pulp from eggplant (set skin aside) and dice pulp. Add to onion mix and sauté 3 mins. Add olives, basil, tomatoes, chickpeas and tomato sauce and sauté for 2 mins., till tomatoes begin to soften.

5. Add parsley, bread crumbs, salt and pepper, chili flakes and 2 1/2 oz of the feta, leaving the remainder for the topping. Fill eggplant shells and garnish with remaining feta.

6. Broil 2 minutes or just until lightly browned. Drizzle with yogurt. ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 1 medium eggplant
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup diced onions
- 4 oz chopped button mushrooms
- 1 tsp chopped garlic
- 1/4 cup diced black olives
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 2 cups diced plum tomatoes
- 1 cup chickpeas
- 1/2 cup tomato pasta sauce
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 3 tbsp seasoned bread crumbs
- Salt and pepper
- Chili flakes to taste
- 3 oz crumbled feta cheese

Garnish

- 2 tbsp low-fat plain yogurt

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Canucks set sights on kicking Sens while they're down

Alexandre Burrows of the Canucks collides with Senators goaltender Craig Anderson at the Canadian Tire Centre on Sunday night. The Sens went into the contest having lost their last five games. For the story, go to metronews.ca. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada shifts gears in World Cup prep

Soccer. National women's team taking on a winning focus months away from hosting event: Coach

The Canadian women's soccer team could be headed to China early next year, making the Four Nations Tournament the next stop on its pre-World Cup trail.

That means an early date with the Chinese, whom they will meet on the opening day of the Women's World Cup next June in Edmonton.

"I'm not sure whether I'm going to be able to put my team out and use the tactics I would (normally) use, but who knows?" Canadian coach John Herdman said with a grin. "I might play a 3-5-2 format or something a bit different."

With Saturday's draw marking six months to the opening kickoff, the games are ramping up on and off the pitch for the 24 World Cup teams.

Canadian women's soccer team captain Christine Sinclair laughs with coach John Herdman, right, and organizing committee member Victor Montagliani during a news conference on Friday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Herdman says Canada has been moving from "that improve and learn and develop phase into a (aim to) perfect phase."

"Which means the results start to matter," he said. "This close to an event you have to stop being development-focused. Now it's a win focus."

That includes increasing competition within the squad. Only 23 of the current wider pool of 30 players will make the World Cup squad. And the year after, only 18 will go to the Olympics.

"So it's about the consistency in their performances now when they get opportunities, as well as every day in training," Herdman said.

"I guess the scrutiny and the expectations have gone up over the last month and some players have really responded to that."

The eighth-ranked Canadians defeated (1-0) and tied (1-1) No. 5 Sweden last month, capping a demanding year that saw Herdman's team play Japan, Germany, the U.S. and England among others. Canada finished 2014 with a 4-5-2 record. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Positive' draw for Canada

Canadian coach John Herdman left the Women's World Cup draw with a smile after being grouped with China, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

- The Canadians are ranked eighth in the world while China is No. 14, the Netherlands No. 15 and New Zealand No. 19.
- "Positive," was Herdman's assessment of Canada's newly minted Pool A. "It's not the easiest but certainly doable."

Speedskating

Blondin finds silver lining in Berlin

Canada's Ivanie Blondin won the silver medal in the women's mass start event at a speedskating World Cup meet on Sunday.

The Ottawa skater has won a medal in the event at all three World Cup stops this season, winning gold in Japan and bronze in South Korea before Sunday's silver-medal performance.

Blondin currently sits fifth in the overall women's standings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alpine skiing

Vonn fast out of comeback gate

Lara Gut of Switzerland won the women's World Cup super-G Sunday, with Lindsey Vonn finishing second.

Vonn was coming off a victory in Saturday's downhill. The four-time overall World Cup champion is returning to the circuit after missing the Sochi Olympics and undergoing a second knee operation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PGA

Healthy Woods struggles in return

Tiger Woods tied for last place in his return to golf after four months and found at least one reason for optimism.

At least he has his health.

Except for flu-like symptoms on Saturday, Woods made it through 72 holes of the Hero World Challenge by swinging as hard as he wanted without feeling any pain. He finished 26 shots behind winner Jordan Spieth.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Colts beat Browns on last-minute TD

Andrew Luck came through when it mattered most.

Bottled up all afternoon by Cleveland's defence, Luck capped a 90-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown pass to T.Y. Hilton with 32 seconds left, rallying the Indianapolis Colts to a 25-24 win on Sunday over the Browns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This week should be easier than last week. Today, however, you may have to deal with a problem you would like to pretend does not exist.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
An embarrassing event will make you shy to show your face in certain circles but so what if you made a fool of yourself? No one is perfect. Laugh it off.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Get out into the world and have a good time. The more people you meet on your travels the better, as they will open your eyes to new possibilities.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Something shiny will catch your eye and you won't be happy until you possess it. Whether or not you can afford it won't worry you. Will you regret it tomorrow? Who cares!

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There are so cosmic influences working in your favour and you can't help but feel delighted with life. However, as luck planet Jupiter turns retrograde in your sign today don't take too much for granted.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you find it hard to get your act in gear as the new week begins maybe you are doing something wrong. Or maybe you need an extra day of rest.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make an effort to get to know someone you thought of as boring and you may be surprised to find they are more interesting than you imagined.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Whatever challenges you are faced with over the next few days you will attack them. But don't get carried away and take on something (or someone) that is out of your league.

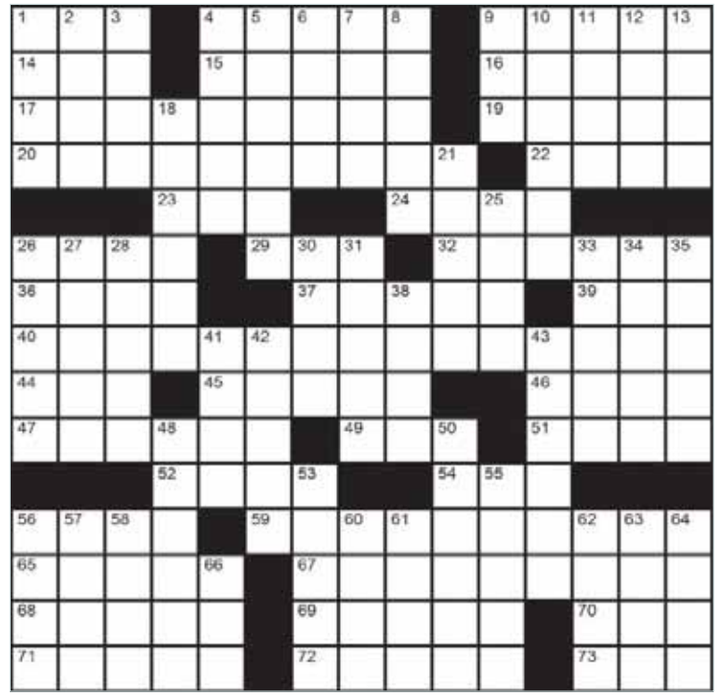
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You know that what you believe in is right and you know that what someone else believes in is wrong. How do you convince them to change their outlook? You don't. Let them learn from their own mistakes.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be too critical of someone today because later in the week you will need their assistance and they are unlikely to give it if you've been too hard on them.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
As Jupiter begins one of its retrograde phases today you are advised not to take anything for granted.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be one of the more sensitive members of the zodiac but you can be tough when the occasion calls for it. At work others will get the message that you're not such a wimp after all.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Corn on the __
4. Guinness and Baldwin
9. Thing to kick as a New Year's resolution
14. Shakespeare: "_, __ some other name!" - Juliet
15. "Hello, __!" (1969)
16. Historical time
17. One who points out every perceived flaw
19. Indulgence at the mall
20. John Lennon song: 2 wds.
22. Star tennis player Mr. Murray
23. Battleship letters in The States
24. Yank
26. Printer's pile
29. Five - Three = What?
32. Opera legend Maria (b.1923 - d.1977)
36. Languish
37. Mountain spinach
39. "__ the King's Men" (2006)
40. __ __ Provincial Park, in northwestern Ontario
44. Building extension
45. Speak
46. Ding-__! (Sound from the door)
47. Delete private information
49. Home addr.
51. Angry snits
52. "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" bit
54. __ rata
56. Ms. Carrere's
59. Promontory on which Quebec City sits: 2 mots
65. Foretells
67. Attorney, in England
68. Bundle-of-joy carrier
69. Food staple
70. Lanois' U2 co-producer
71. Ashen looking
72. Two-masted boats
73. New York baseball player

Down
1. And, e.g.
2. Off-Broadway theatrical award
3. Test version of software
4. "Good-bye!"
5. Plague pest
6. Antlered animals
7. Horsefly
8. Sundae topping
9. She's opposite
10. Disgust
11. "__ Free" (1966)
12. Frosted
13. Group of unnamed people
18. Feathered
21. State flower of New Mexico
25. Bert of "The Wizard of Oz" (1939)
26. More less cooked
27. School: French
28. Get _ __ of (Contact)
30. "__ Get Fooled Again" by The Who
31. "Waiter! I'm ready to __ now, please."
33. Travail, variant-spelling
34. Tiffany hit: "I Think We're __ Now"
35. Canadian band, Doug and The __
38. Cottage plot
41. Lotto-winner's circumstance
42. Storage-area-turned-extra-room
43. Manners of speaking
48. Declare
50. Type of notebook
53. Type of cat
55. Military attacks
56. Baker's meas.
57. 9th Greek letter
58. Hubbubs
60. Prefix to 'normal'
61. "The Price Is Right" host Mr. Carey
62. "Up and __ '__!" (Rise and shine!)
63. "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" cast member Ms. Leakes
64. Horse speed
66. Flying bird's domain

Friday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

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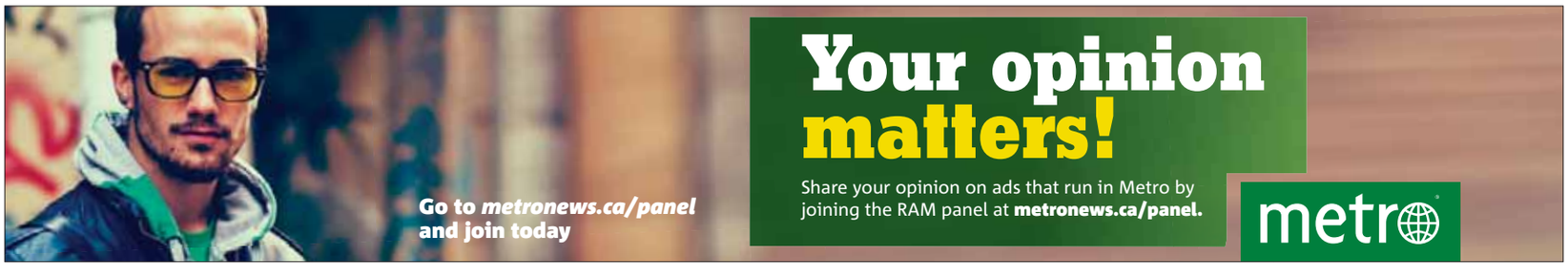
Friday's Sudoku

3	9	2	7	8	5	6	1	4
4	6	1	3	2	9	5	7	8
5	7	8	4	6	1	9	2	3
6	3	4	1	9	7	2	8	5
7	8	9	5	4	2	1	3	6
2	1	5	8	3	6	7	4	9
9	4	6	2	1	3	8	5	7
1	5	3	6	7	8	4	9	2
8	2	7	9	5	4	3	6	1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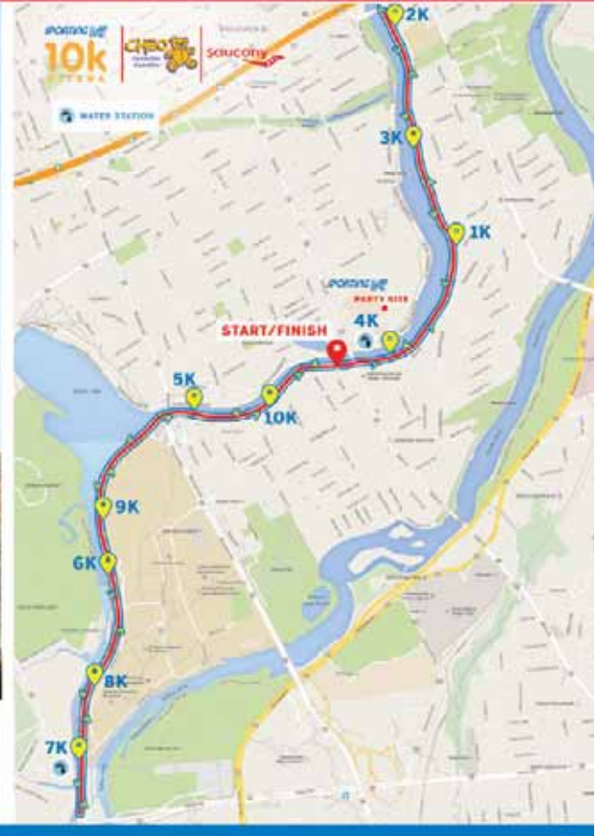

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